

### Claims

- 1 1. A surgical instrument for treating female urinary incontinence, the instrument  
2 comprising:
- 3 a) a handle;
- 4 b) a shaft extending in a distal direction from the handle and comprising a  
5 curved portion, the shaft being adapted to access interior tissue within a  
6 human body;
- 7 c) a blunt tip disposed at a distal end of the shaft for blunt dissection of  
8 tissue; and
- 9 d) a grasping mechanism located within a distal end portion of the shaft.
- 1 2. The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the shaft is adapted to transvaginally  
2 access interior tissue within a female human body.
- 1 3. The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the grasping mechanism comprises a  
2 window operated by an actuator, the window being movable between an open  
3 position, an intermediate position, and a closed position.
- 1 4. The surgical instrument of claim 3, wherein  
2 a suture or a sling may be introduced into the instrument when the window is  
3 placed in the open position,  
4 a suture or a sling may be retained by the instrument when the window is placed  
5 in the intermediate position, and  
6 a suture or a sling may be released from the instrument when the window is  
7 placed in the closed position.
- 1 5. The surgical instrument of claim 3, wherein the actuator comprises a knob located  
2 on the handle.
- 1 6. The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the handle comprises a friction-based  
2 gripping surface.
- 1 7. A device for deploying an implant within a human body, the device comprising:  
2 a body member including
- 3 (a) a connector adapted to attach onto an instrument;
- 4 (b) a retainer coupled to the connector for holding the implant;

5 (c) a shield located adjacent to and spaced apart from the retainer and at a  
6 distal end of the for shielding the implant from surrounding tissue during  
7 insertion of the device into a human body; and

8 (d) a pair of proximal tabs located adjacent to and spaced apart from the  
9 shield, the pair of proximal tabs being adapted to undo the shielding  
10 mechanism so as to expose the implant and disengage the implant from the  
11 device, thereby allowing the implant to engage into surrounding tissue.

1 ~~8~~ The device of claim 7, wherein the implant is a surgical hook having a suture  
2 attached thereto, and the shielding mechanism protects a tip of the surgical hook during  
3 insertion of the surgical hook into the human body.

1 ~~9~~ The device of claim 7, wherein the retainer holds the implant to the body member  
2 by a friction fit.

TOP SECRET

BEST AVAILABLE COPY